

I. Remarks

Claims 226-235, 238-239, and 240-242 are currently pending and are under examination.

Claims 231 and 232 have been amended with this response to correct grammatical errors. As such, this amendment does not add new matter and its entry is respectfully requested.

Claims 240-242 have been canceled without prejudice to their reassertion in a duly filed continuation application.

II. Objections

The disclosure submitted November 5, 2004 stands objected to because the status identifiers of the claims were listed incorrectly. Applicant has corrected the status identifiers of the instant claims as requested by the Office. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

III. Claim rejection on the ground of judicial doctrine and/or interference

Claims 240-242 stand rejected on the ground of judicial doctrine/ estoppel over the count of Interference No. 103,882 for allegedly reading on a count in said Interference. Applicant respectfully traverses. However, in the interest of resolving the issues in this long-pending application and without conceding to the correctness of the Office's rejection, Applicant has canceled claims 240-242 with this response. As such, the instant rejection is moot and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.